

From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/14/2018 2:51:46 PM
To: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Friday, December 14
Attachments: Daily News Digest 121418.pdf

****Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

****To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.***

1 – Hurricane Harvey report seeks to 'future-proof' Texas from climate change without saying so directly, Dallas Morning News, 12/13/18

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/climate-change-1/2018/12/13/hurricane-harvey-report-seeks-future-proof-texas-climate-change-without-saying-directly>

To protect itself from the next major hurricane, Texas will have to build storm-surge barriers, shore up wetlands, buy out residents who live in vulnerable areas, rethink development plans and raise the first floors of existing buildings, suggests a sweeping report prepared for Gov. Greg Abbott and released Thursday.

2 – Bella Vista officials look for help to put out fire, Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 12/14/18

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2018/dec/14/bella-vista-officials-look-for-help-to-/>

Officials hope to learn today what can be done to extinguish an underground fire burning for more than four months and polluting the air. Heinz Braun with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality said Thursday the federal Environmental Protection Agency would bring in experts today to best determine how to fight the fire. Braun was in Bella Vista on Thursday.

3 — Waste pits disposal new concern for watchdogs, Baytown (TX) Sun, 12/14/18

http://baytownsun.com/news/article_4bfc34ee-ff4b-11e8-9b83-633de5927073.html

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and potentially responsible parties finish up field work for Phase 1 of the predesign investigation out at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, environmental watchdogs want to know where the toxic materials will be transported once it's removed from the river.

4 – Revised Clean Water Rule leaves out most of NM's waterways, NM Political Report, 12/13/18

<https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2018/12/13/revised-clean-water-rule-leaves-out-most-of-nms-waterways/>

Under the new rule issued Tuesday, almost 60 percent of the waterways and wetlands nationwide would no longer be protected under the Clean Water Act. The new rule says streams that flow only in response to snowmelt or rainfall—"ephemeral" streams—would not be protected. It also questions removing protections from "intermittent" streams, or those that have a baseflow from groundwater recharge, but may not run above-ground throughout the entire year.

5 — WOTUS today and WOTUS tomorrow, Politico, 12/13/18

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2018/12/13/wotus-today-and-wotus-tomorrow-454536>

As water experts dig into the details of the Trump administration's proposed Waters of the U.S. rule, it's not just the outlines that are becoming clear — but also the different directions the administration could go when it issues a final rule next year.

6 — Udall, Heinrich Announce More Than \$35 Million To Improve Rural Water Infrastructure In New Mexico, New Los Alamos (NM) Daily Post, 12/13/18

<https://www.ladailypost.com/content/udall-heinrich-announce-more-35-million-improve-rural-water-infrastructure-new-mexico>

U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) announced \$35.4 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to build and improve rural water and wastewater systems in New Mexico.

7 – AG protests Entergy pact to shutdown Arkansas coal plants, asks state regulators to intervene, Talk Business & Politics, 12/14/18

<https://talkbusiness.net/2018/12/ag-protests-entergy-pact-to-shutdown-arkansas-coal-plants-asks-state-regulators-to-intervene/>

Just weeks after an agreement between Entergy Arkansas and a coalition of environmental groups was reached to shut down two of the state's oldest coal-fired power plants, state Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge on Thursday (Dec. 13) asked state regulators to delay or halt that historic pact.

8 – *Something's* happening on the endangerment finding. But what?, E&E News, 12/14/18

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060109605>

Last week, as EPA proposed its replacement for the Obama-era carbon rule for new and modified power plants, the agency added a footnote calling for input on the 2009 determination that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare.

9 – With special gear and righteous anger, activists document emissions in the Permian oil fields, Dallas Morning News, 12/14/18

<https://www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/2018/12/14/activists-building-case-oil-gas-emissions-permian-basin>

Environmental activist Sharon Wilson knows what she's likely to get from her regular trips to the Permian Basin: a headache and sore throat from the fumes and a dark mood from the bleak industrial landscape. Still, she returns, armed with more than \$100,000 worth of camera equipment and righteous anger over what few people see in the heart of the U.S. oil industry

10 – No. 2 gas-producing state moves to curb air pollution, AP, 12/43/18

https://www.ktbs.com/news/national/no-gas-producing-state-moves-to-curb-air-pollution/article_6ade93ba-4980-5a29-b161-07fe136b137a.html

Pennsylvania is aiming to curb air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from its vast natural gas exploration fields, with the governor's administration proposing new regulations Thursday even as the Trump administration moves to relax federal requirements.

11 – Oil well leak cleaned up in southeast Oklahoma City, The Oklahoman, 12/13/18

<https://newsok.com/article/5617685/oil-well-leak-cleaned-up-in-southeast-oklahoma-city>

Vandalism may be the cause of an oil leak that kept firefighters and environmental crews busy at a well site late Wednesday in southeast Oklahoma City, authorities reported.

12 – Legislation aims to promote green infrastructure, E&E News, 12/14/18

<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060109609>

A bipartisan group of lawmakers this week introduced legislation aimed at getting EPA to promote what they call green infrastructure. The bill would require EPA to promote the use of green infrastructure for planning purposes, research, technical assistance and funding guidance. It would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to create an integrated planning process for contamination.